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Detective's work for abused kids lives on

Randy Nunnenkamp - His family and friends mark the first anniversary of his death

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MAYA BLACKMUN

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Family and friends of Randy Nunnenkamp, a Washington County Sheriff's Office child abuse detective killed in a motorcycle crash, spent the first anniversary of his death Wednesday laying flowers on his grave and at the crash scene.

But led by his wife, Mary Nunnenkamp, colleagues and supporters are working on other ways to continue his work on behalf of children.

Nunnenkamp, 47, died in a three-vehicle crash in rural Yamhill County after a vehicle crossed the centerline and struck him and a car traveling behind him.

Sgt. Alan Alderman of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office child abuse team said Nunnenkamp cared deeply about his work and balanced an ability to talk to child victims and then interview suspects with professionalism.

"He was able to do all those things," he said. "I think his off-duty life reflected that." Nunnenkamp also volunteered as a Boy Scout leader and coach.

On Sunday, the Blue Knights Oregon IV, a motorcycle group of active and retired law enforcement officers he belonged to, will go on a short ride in his honor and deliver stuffed animals to CARES Northwest in Portland.

In September, the group is planning the Randy CARES Memorial Ride to raise funds for the medically based child abuse assessment and intervention program.

Mary Nunnenkamp has established a foundation in his name to provide support to Washington County foster youth by helping with incidental costs of growing up -- a prom dress or a letter jacket -- and for post-high school vocational or college education. A fundraising dinner in July will also feature awards to an Oregon Department of Human Services child welfare worker and a CARES Northwest staff member or volunteer.

During his career, Nunnenkamp received several awards for his work. Now several are handed out in his name, including the Clackamas County Child Abuse Summit and Family Violence Conference Champions for Children Randy Nunnenkamp Award, previously known as the In the Trenches Award, and the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Detective Randall Lee Nunnenkamp Child Abuse Investigator of the Year Award.

Maya Blackmun: 503-294-5926; mayablackmun@ news.oregonian.com

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